

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

January 9, 1974

OBE

MEMORANDUM FOR:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM:

Peter W. Rodman *prf*

SUBJECT:

ARGUMENTS TO MAKE TO THE ARABS

1. On Lifting the Oil Boycott. As we get through the winter, the impact of the oil boycott as a form of pressure is bound to erode. With the effective conservation measures and the reports of leakage, plus the passage of time, the American public will soon be concluding that we have survived it. It is in the Arabs' interest to lift the boycott before this point is reached. Otherwise the weapon loses its potency -- perhaps for good -- and the act of lifting it loses its significance as an act of Arab goodwill deserving reciprocity.

2. On Territorial Settlement. The Arab position on a territorial settlement is usually expressed in categorical terms ("complete withdrawal," "withdrawal from all territories," "return to the 5 June 1967 lines"). The Algiers Summit Conference statement of November 28 used such phraseology. On other occasions, however, they use language which is less precise, like "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force." This phrase is from 242. We might, when the time comes, stress this more vague phraseology with the Arabs to describe a final territorial settlement. If the Israelis retain any territory after an agreement, the land is retained -- by definition -- by virtue of the agreement and not through "acquisition by force." As long as the negotiation is seen to have been a free negotiation between equals, the Arabs can wrap concessions in this language. We can't carry this too far -- to pretend that surrender of land is the highest act of sovereignty -- but the point may have some cosmetic value.

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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

State Dept. review completed

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